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2010

United States Animal Health Report Highlights



Dr. John Clifford

I am pleased to announce the availability of the 2010 *United States Animal Health Report*. This is the seventh annual report produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on the

Nation's animal health status. The report is available on the APHIS Web site at: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_health_report.

This year's report highlights animal health and epidemiological events from 2010 and also provides updates on APHIS Veterinary Services' (VS) programs, activities, and initiatives focused on maintaining healthy livestock, poultry, and aquaculture populations. The report updates key developments in the areas of emergency management, laboratory diagnostics and biologics, disease surveillance and monitoring, and disease management and reporting.

Additionally, the report shows a shift in the way we conduct our work. In last year's message, I stated that VS is striving to evolve proactively to meet the needs and demands of the world around us. We labeled the initiative "VS 2015," but we're not waiting until 2015 to change our strategies and focus. We are committed to taking a new approach today, looking for innovative ways to enhance our services and build closer partnerships with our stakeholders—which will benefit all of us in the future.

One example of this new approach is represented by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack's announcement in February 2010 about a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability. We are committed to becoming more inclusive and transparent in our rulemaking. As a result, we worked in partnership with States, tribal nations, and industry to address the framework details, giving ample opportunity for farmers, ranchers, and the public to provide continued input throughout the process.

We also recognized that our activities and partnerships should consider the relationships among veterinary, public, and environmental health, and how we fit into the global One Health effort. The One Health initiative, endorsed and undertaken by scientists worldwide, promotes coordination between multiple disciplines to advance health care. For VS, that means we consider the interface between changing modes of livestock production and the emergence and risks of zoonotic diseases.

VS will continue to evolve, enhance, and refocus our programs to meet existing and impending challenges in the animal health landscape. Our strengths, and those of our multiple partners, will help to maintain VS' position as the Nation's veterinary authority. We thank the United States Animal Health Association for its unparalleled collaboration and contributions to these efforts. As always, I invite and welcome your comments and ideas.

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Animal Disease Traceability

After the Secretary's announcement outlining a new, flexible traceability framework, APHIS convened a State-Tribal-Federal Traceability Regulation Working Group to recommend the content of a proposed rule. The rule, published in August, focuses on interstate movement and supports an outcome-based approach to achieve improved traceability. Eight public meetings were held to inform the public about the working group's efforts, obtain feedback, review the new framework, and share our current thinking on the proposed rule and the traceability performance standards.

One Health

APHIS serves as co-leader of an international One Health training committee, which is one of seven committees formed to define specific actions for global One Health implementation. The training committee will build veterinarians' skills, expertise, and competencies through a specialized curriculum and identify opportunities to integrate One Health approaches into existing curricula. In May, APHIS completed development of an initial segment of the One Health training curriculum.

Tuberculosis/Brucellosis Regulatory Framework

Last September, APHIS formed a working group of Federal, State, and tribal subject matter experts to discuss new directions for the bovine tuberculosis (TB) and brucellosis eradication programs. Development of the proposed TB and brucellosis regulation is expected to take approximately 2 years and will require ongoing engagement with a wide group of internal and external stakeholders. The working group discusses the overarching regulatory concepts that APHIS is considering as it develops the TB and brucellosis proposed rule.

The full *2010 United States Animal Health Report* is available on the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_health_report.



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